

**RTF 583 Intro to Graduate Studies in Film and Broadcasting**  
Fall 2000

F 3-6 pm. 100 AMS  
Chuck Kleinhans  
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office hours: Tu 3-5 and by appt.  
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The goal of the course is to give students a broad introduction to the field of Radio/TV/Film in preparation for graduate studies and professional work in the area. The course includes overviews of research topics and methods, ongoing questions, problems, and controversies in the field, and the pragmatics of professional work such as electronic and library searching, preparing reading notes and summaries, and learning the appropriate ethics and behaviors of the area.

A typical class will include:

1. a brief check-in to discuss any problems that have come up
2. some remarks by the instructor on research and professional topics
3. an exercise based on common readings oriented around how to think critically about major topics and issues in the field
4. a visit by a faculty member who will talk and answer questions about their own research and/or creative work
5. student responses to questions directed by the instructor on common readings

Student work will include:

attendance. This is essential and will be taken into account in grading.

reading: both rapid and extensive, and careful and analytical.

research on assigned topics

short papers and participation in on-line discussion

a final paper organized as a research project

This schedule is tentative in that not all visitors have been confirmed.

Required texts. Available at Norris Center Store ( paperback)

Dennis McQuail, *McQuail's Mass Communication Theory* (4th edition), Sage.

this book is a broad survey the subject with a bias to social science approaches from a middle-of-the road perspective. We will read it to gain an expansive view of that tradition.

Lydia Alix Fillingham, *Foucault for Beginners* ISBN 0-86316-160-X

this is an overview of the major French historian and thinker. We will be using the book to examine how theoretical developments take place and affect intellectual work and changing trends.

Hugh Mackay and Tim O'Sullivan, *The Media Reader: Continuity and Transformation* (Sage)

This is an anthology which gathers significant "recent classic" articles and new essays concentrating about issues raised by the current climate of drastic media change.

Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists*. U of Chicago Press

This is a book of commonsense practical advice written by a master sociologist who is noted, among other things, for his ability to communicate well to a general intellectual audience. It is intended to help you think actively about how to do one of the primary tasks of intellectuals and scholars: to organize your research and present it efficiently and effectively for presentation to others.

In addition you must purchase and learn to use effectively ONE of the following style sheets:

*The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (current edition)  
This is the standard handbook for almost all social scientists in the US.

Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th edition (or more recent if available). U of Chicago Press. This is a handbook for students based on the U of Chicago Press style manual. It answers almost all questions and problems that students might encounter and is appropriate for both social science and humanities/ arts writing.

*A Style Manual for Students based on the Modern Language Association Style Manual*. (approx. title)

Another handbook for students. This is the authoritative source for language, literature, and most humanities scholarly writing.

An additional publication will be given to all: *Jump Cut: A Review of Contemporary Media*, no. 43.

Course schedule

**Sept. 22**

Introductions

Media culture in a time of change

Describing the field

Institutionalizing the field

**Sept 29**

First research report due--post on CourseInfo by 8 am 28 Sept.

1200 words. Primary tool: Internet; Secondary tool: government documents and academic studies *research 2.5 hours. Writing 1.5 hours.*

Topic: what are the major issues in the current discussion of violence in the media?

Discussion: media violence as a social issue (one hour)

Intro to Ettema (student)

Guest: Prof. James Ettema, Comm Studies

Readings:

McQuail, preface, pp 1-90 read rapidly for the main points ( 3 hours)

Discussion-- based on directed questions one hour.

### **Oct. 6**

Second research report (teams) Global Media

John Tomlinson, Cultural Globalization: placing and displacing the west (MR)

Herman & McChesney, The global media in the 1990s (MR)

McChesney, The New Global Media (handout)

Teams will work with supplemental readings from *The Nation*

Guest: Prof Richard Kilborn, Sterling University, Scotland

Readings: McQuail 91-214

Discussion based on directed questions

Special optional event: dinner on Devon Ave with a guided tour of foods, flavors, and popular Indian media by Aditi Menon est. \$8-10 without drinks

### **Oct. 13**

Assignment: one 500 wd. Summary on media technology. 500 wd commentary based on Readings.

John Thompson, The media and modernity

Raymond Williams, The technology and the society

Carolyn Marvin, When old technologies were new

Discussion: Media and technology

Guest: Professor Rick Morris, RTF

Readings: McQuail 215-300

Discussion based on directed questions

### **Oct 20**

No class, 150th celebration

### **Oct 27**

Assignment: 500 word essay based on anecdotal information (talk to people, collect stories) on humans in a digital world

Joshua Meyrowitz, No sense of place (MR)

Howard Reingold, The virtual community (MR)  
Sherry Turkle, Identity in the age of the internet (MR)

McQuail 301-474  
Directed discussion

Guest: Michelle Citron, RTF (move to computer lab)

**Nov. 3**

Moreley and Robins, Reimagined communities?  
Ien Ang: The realm of uncertainty

Guest: Professor and Associate Dean SoS, Jim Webster, Comm Studies

Planning your Research project: first round, pitch your idea.

**Nov 10**

Read Foucault for Beginners  
Discussion: Foucault and Intellectuals

Begin generating bibliography for research proposal

Guest: Professor Mimi White, RTF

Directed discussion

Brent McGregor, Making television news in the satellite age  
Patrice Flichty, The Wireless age: radio broadcasting  
Graham Murdock, Corporate dynamics and broadcasting futures  
Kamran Afary: on Pacifica (JC)

(optional) Dinner in Andersonville, Persian food with Kamran Afary

**Nov 17**

Jeanette Steemers, Broadcasting is dead, Long live digital choice  
Leslie Haddon, The development of interactive games  
Michael Chanan, The Documentary Chronotope (JC 43)

Guest: Professor Scott Curtis, RTF

Summaries of 2 articles for your project (presentation)

**Nov. 24**

No class, Thanksgiving holiday

**Dec. 1**

Julie Lindstrom, HEAT (JC)

Wrap-up discussion

(optional) Dinner at a Korean restaurant, presentation on Korean language media in the US

Final paper: due Tuesday Dec 5, 3 pm in Chuck's mailbox (RTF office)

**Elaboration--paper one**

Violence in the media and entertainment (including music and video games) is now a campaign topic for the presidential race. Search on the internet for what is happening with this topic now (newspapers like the NY Times, MSNBC, etc.), and in the recent past. Set up your investigation starting with the internet, then plan on checking out some government documents (such as the McCain hearing last week in the Senate) or industry reports (Hollywood Reporter, Variety, Billboard, etc.). Check into appropriate history, eg the work of Tipper Gore around music labelling in the past. And noted media events in the past such as the Columbine massacre in Littleton Colorado and its media aftermath. Look also for academic experts and public intellectuals who have offered opinions on media violence (eg. George Gerbner)